

CLAIMS

I claim:

1. A flashlight for differently sized batteries, each having a different length, a different cross sectional area, a positive pole and a negative pole, the flashlight comprising:

a single elongated body having a plurality of differently sized retaining structures for holding differently sized batteries in side-by-side relationship, each retaining structure being formed to receive only one size of at least one battery;

an end cap attached to one end of the body and provided with a first contact therein commonly engageable with the negative poles of the battery;

a reflector head attached to the opposite end of the body and holding a lamp;

10 and

a second contact commonly and directly engaged against the positive poles of the batteries, the reflector head and the lamp,

the flashlight being constructed and arranged to connect the batteries electrically in parallel with one another.

2. The flashlight of claim 1, wherein the body holds the battery such that the negative poles are coplanar in the body, and the positive poles are variously located axially in the body.

3. The flashlight of claim 2, wherein the second contact includes a plurality of faces for engaging the positive poles variously located axially in the body.

4. The flashlight of claim 1, wherein the body is formed with a uniform length.

5. The flashlight of claim 1, wherein one set of the positive poles and the negative poles is coplanar in the body and the other set of positive poles and negative poles is variously located axially in the body.

6. A flashlight for differently sized batteries, each having a different length, a different cross sectional area, a positive pole and a negative pole, the flashlight comprising:

an elongated body having a plurality of differently spaced and differently sized longitudinal grooves, each groove being configured to retain one of the differently sized batteries so that the batteries lie parallel to each other with the negative poles of the batteries being coplanar, and the positive poles of the batteries being variously located in different planes axially in the body;

an end cap screwthreadedly attached to a rear portion of the body, the end cap being formed with a contact ring selectively engageable and disengageable with the coplanar negative poles of the batteries;

a reflector head screwthreadedly attached to a forward portion of the body for holding a lamp therein; and

a multi-planar contact interposed between the positive poles of the batteries and the reflector head, and engaged against the lamp, the multi-planar contact having a number of faces disposed in the different planes for constantly engaging the positive poles of the batteries.

7. The flashlight of claim 6, wherein rotation of the end cap acts as a switch for selectively placing the lamp in electrical communication with the batteries.

8. The flashlight of claim 6, wherein the body, the end cap with the contact ring, the reflector head, the multi-planar contact and the batteries define an electrical circuit connecting the batteries electrically in parallel with one another.

9. The flashlight of claim 6, wherein the body contains at least one battery.
10. The flashlight of claim 9, wherein the battery is selected from the group consisting of AAA, C, D and AA size batteries.
11. The flashlight of claim 9, wherein the battery has a circular cross sectional area.
12. The flashlight of claim 6, wherein the body has four differently spaced grooves with different curvatures for holding cylindrically shaped, differently sized batteries.
13. The flashlight of claim 6, wherein the body contains at least two batteries of the same size in end-to-end relationship.
14. The flashlight of claim 6, wherein the multi-planar contact compensates for the varying lengths of the differently sized batteries.
15. The flashlight of claim 6, wherein the body, the end cap with the contact ring, the reflector head, and the multi-planar contact are all constructed of an electrically conductive, metallic material.
16. The flashlight of claim 12, wherein a first groove is capable of holding at least one AAA size battery, a second groove is capable of holding at least one AA size battery, a third groove is capable of holding at least one C size battery, and a fourth groove is capable of holding at least one D size battery.

17. In a flashlight having a body for holding differently sized batteries, each having a different length, a different cross sectional area, a positive pole, and a negative pole, an end cap attached to one end of the body, a reflector head with a lamp attached to an opposite end of the body, and contact structure engaged with the
5 positive and negative poles of the batteries, the improvement wherein:

the body is a single unit provided with a plurality of differently spaced and differently sized retaining structures for holding the differently sized batteries in parallel relationship within the same body, each retaining structure being formed to receive only one size of battery, and

10 the contact structure includes a rigid, multi-planar contact compensating for the varying lengths of the differently sized batteries within the same body.